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THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was founded in 1862 by a representative group of New Haven citizens. As stated in the Constitution adopted by the Society, revised in 1965:

"The object of the Society shall be the collection, preservation and publication of historical and genealogical matters relating to the early settlement and subsequent history, especially of New Haven and its vicinity, and incidentally of other portions of the United States."

The museum and library of the Society are open to the public. There is an admission charge for nonmembers. In addition to the Whitney Avenue building, the Society owns the Pardee-Morris House at 325 Lighthouse Road, Morris Cove, New Haven. Built originally about the middle of the eighteenth century, it was burned during the British invasion in 1779. Rebuilt at once, it incorporates surviving portions of the older structure. The Pardee-Morris House is now restored and furnished appropriately and is open to the public during the summer months.

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Cover: The Mary Wade Wing, built in 1897.

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Mary P. Wade, whose sister's gift made possible construction of the wing named in her honor.

Lucy Hall Boardman, her generous sister.

The Mary Wade Home: The First 125 Years

by Floyd M. Shumway and Richard Hegel

The Home for the Friendless: 1866–1891

By 1866, when what we now know as the Mary Wade Home was founded, there were a number of philanthropic institutions in New Haven already in operation. Organizations with benevolent purposes had been springing up in the city for three-quarters of a century. The city-owned New Haven Almshouse, originally for criminals, the insane, and the "virtuous poor," dates from 1791, but by 1850 only the virtuous poor were served. New Haven Hospital was chartered in 1832, and the New Haven Orphan Asylum came into being a year later. The Woman's Seamen's Friend Society was begun in 1860 to help visiting sailors who had problems. The Hannah Gray Home began in 1861 as a shelter for the friendless poor, and eventually it began to serve only blacks. The New Haven Aid Society started in 1864 as a home for Catholic orphans. The Young Men's Christian Association inaugurated its service here in 1866, and that same year witnessed the opening of the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, which was located in Middletown but which took in patients from all over the state.[1]

The charitable impulse continued through the century. The Industrial School for Girls, founded in 1870, was another Middletown institution that served the whole state, providing housing and training for young women who, it was felt, needed discipline. The New Haven Dispensary, dating from 1872, gave free medical advice and medicine. The Home for the Aged and Destitute Women of Center Church and the Trinity Church Home were both in operation by 1880. The Young Women's Christian Association started here in 1880. The Leila Day Nursery opened in 1883. Springside Farm was built near West Rock Park in 1886 to replace the almshouse, and its residents worked at growing crops and tending livestock. One year later the New Haven Public Library was organized.[2]

The founding of The Home for the Friendless, which we know as The Mary Wade Home, dates from September 8, 1866, when a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Eli Whitney, at Elm and Orange Streets, for the purpose of starting a home for vagrant, idle, and homeless girls. Mrs. Roger S. Baldwin, Mrs. William T. Eustis, Mrs. Charles Fabrique, Mrs. Wooster Hotchkiss, Mrs. Peletiah Perit, Mrs. S. Dryden Phelps, Mrs. Judson A. Root, Mrs. Joseph E. Sheffield, Mrs. George W. Staples, Mrs. Alfred Walker, and Mrs. Whitney proposed to provide shelter and training in "all branches of domestic service and needle work," with the recognition that their charges would be to a large extent pregnant, unmarried young women.[3]

Exactly one week after the first meeting the founders convened again and elected a president, vice president, chief manager, treasurer, and secretary and a Board of Managers drawn from nineteen Protestant New Haven churches. The executive committee was to consist of the officers and two managers selected by the officers. The chief manager was to make purchases, report them to the treasurer, and have general supervision of the Home. A matron was to be hired to run the Home. A visiting committee, appointed from the Board of Managers, was to visit the Home at least once a week, process admission applications, and, of great importance, make written reports which were read at monthly meetings.[4]

These wonderful visitor's reports, miraculously still intact, provide a fascinating account of life in the Home from the very beginning and are filled with careful detail, often using quaint and archaic words. Residents at the Home were called "inmates," childbirth was politely referred to as "confinement," and the euphemism "betrayed girls" was used in order to avoid mentioning birth out of wedlock. Anyone leaving the Home to take a job was said to be taking a "situation," and what we today call a stroke was always described as a "shock." The visitors were very conscious of "inmates" with foreign backgrounds, to the point where residents born in this country to immigrant parents were often classified in the reports as foreigners.[5]

With $6,000 from donations the Board soon bought a frame house, the former residence of John H. Rogers, which faced Clinton Avenue at the corner of Pine Street in Fair Haven. Once a parsonage, then a girls' school, it had when Rogers owned it been used to board boys attending Fair Haven Academy, of which he was headmaster.[6]

Fair Haven in 1866 was a thriving, somewhat isolated oystering community, and the neighborhood around the house was very thinly populated. A railroad bridge over the Quinnipiac River had been built in 1852 for the New Haven & New London Railroad, which later became the Shore Line Division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. The Fair Haven railroad station was just south of the Home between Atwater and Clinton streets. The horse-drawn Fair

Haven & Westville Railroad had run since 1861 on Grand Street, present-day Grand Avenue.[7]

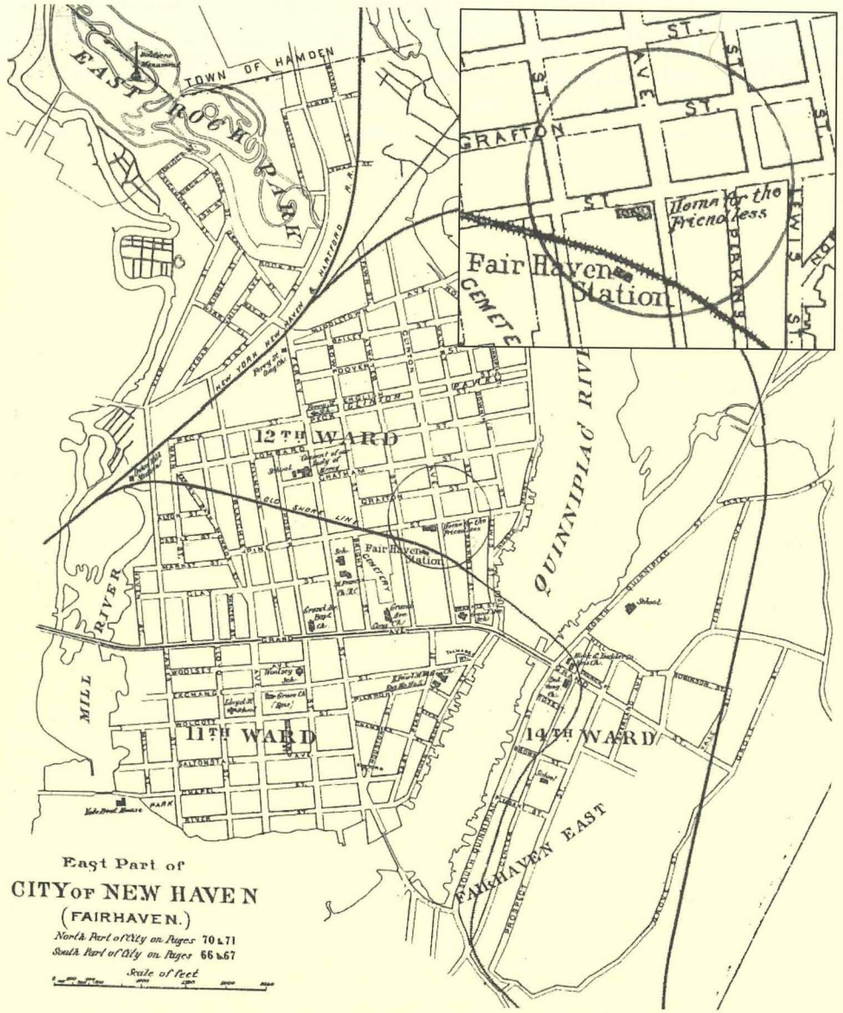
The Home opened on December 2, 1866, and the first president was Mrs. Joseph E. Sheffield, the wife of Yale's Sheffield Scientific School benefactor. The Board met at the Home during warm months, but because there was no central heating system it met at other times at the homes of its members. On December 2, 1868, the Board voted to accept the act of incorporation passed by the Connecticut legislature in May 1867. Early annual operating expenses were about $10,000, paid for largely by donations, plus a little income from the sale of milk and eggs produced by livestock housed on the property. Some local stores and other friends of the Home donated food, clothing, furniture, toys, fuel, and supplies, and a number of retailers allowed purchases at a discount.[8]

By 1872 plans were under way to improve the facilities, and a year later a large addition was erected, the design having been executed by Henry Austin at no cost. The new structure, built at the rear of the Home, included a nursery and infirmary. In 1879 a playroom was created so that children could play without disturbing the older residents. A two-story brick wing, added to the south side of the Home in 1889, contained nine bedrooms, one bathroom, a parlor, dining room, and kitchen, and a storeroom and matron's room. The architect was Leoni W. Robinson, a member of Henry Austin's firm. All of these improvements were financed by gifts of money.[9]

The Home employed eight matrons during the first twenty-five years. Most of them did their work well, but there was considerable turnover because of sickness and exhaustion from overwork. Two of the eight, John and Electra Paddock, who served from 1868 to 1871, were a husband and wife team. By 1874 the staff had grown in size, and eventually the matron was assisted by one or more cooks, housekeepers, nurses, and furnace men. In the period from 1866 to 1891 four physicians in succession rendered "untiring and gratuitous services."[10]

Women and their children came and went during these early years, so that many more people were served annually than were there on any one day. For example, there were 8 residents on April 1, 1868, but 38 were served during all of that year. The numbers kept increasing, so that the annual total for 1875 was 117, and during 1890–91 there were on the average about 53 inmates at any one time. The population always included quite a few children. On May 3, 1890, they represented 40 percent of the total of 50 residents.[11]

Analysis of the records shows that the needs of the residents fell into somewhat distinct categories. Most numerous were young women who came in urgent need and benefited from the care and training they received during the six months they were allowed to stay. The annual report for December 1869 describes them vividly: "Thirty-seven inmates have found refuge and shelter within our walls during the year. A large proportion of these were young girls,



Duane Hamilton Hurd & Co., *Town and City Atlas of the State of Connecticut*. Boston, 1893.

many of them finding their way to us, before sin and crime had darkened their souls, and others, coming to us weary of their evil ways and wanting to reform. To all, our doors have been open, even the most hopeless having met with a cordial welcome and kind care." So much was the Home an institution for women that male visitors were not allowed except by permission of the executive committee.[12]

Fewer in number but with just as urgent needs were young women who used the Home as a refuge while they recovered their health or negotiated for employment. Mary Ellen Sweeney checked out of a hospital on May 10, 1876, and entered the Home. Twelve days later she had recovered, and she left to take a job. A Miss Peck lived at the Home for several weeks in 1876 because she needed a place to stay until she could obtain a situation as a governess.[13]

Some other residents were never easy to deal with and can be categorized as people needing structure and discipline. For example, one young woman was forced to stay in bed for a number of days in March 1877, until she became "penitent and respectful." Eleven years later another "became very rebellious and struck the matron with a broom. For the sake of good order and discipline it was thought best to have her arrested."[14] Or occasionally a resident left without permission. One, according to the admissions and dismissals report dated February 5, 1878, "ran away from the Home taking her infant with her. A very weak-minded woman, to say the least. If she is not crazy, she is a very bad woman. I am inclined to think she is a little of both."[15] The Board had its standards, however, and thoroughly troublesome women ended up dismissed from the Home. The wife of a drunkard came with her two sons in 1876. "Not behaving well she was dismissed" after three days.[16] There were more than a few dramas with sad endings. A girl was married at fourteen, and two years later, in 1878, she was admitted to the Home. A few months later her husband was committed to prison for life. "She is a peculiar girl," it was reported, "subject to fits for some years."[17]

There were also some sinners who reformed, usually through the power of religion. A girl about seventeen entered the Home in 1868. "She came to us from the Hospital with a child three weeks old," we are told. "After a short stay she was induced to leave by a sister, whose character was not at all good, and we feared she might be led into evil paths again. But the good influences thrown around her both at the Hospital and in our Home, were not lost upon her. Her child has been adopted by a person in New York, who will take care of it, and of her own accord she has entered the Magdalene Asylum (in New York City) with the intention of reforming. She says she has been led to this step by the good counsel given her in New Haven." Another woman, aged twenty-one, was admitted September 8, 1883, ill with consumption and having been deserted by her husband. "She was tenderly cared for at the Home the remainder of her life.

She came to us a wayward impatient girl [who] had been deeply wounded and [who] was embittered by her wrongs. She soon gave evidence of a thorough change of heart and life and died (March 3, 1884) gently trusting in Christ."[18]

A small but carefully recorded category of residents consisted of people who needed more help than the Home could offer. For instance, a deaf and dumb boy was sent in 1880 to the Asylum for Deaf Mutes in Hartford. An admissions and dismissals report from 1871 describes "a poor widow incapable of taking care of herself, very weak in mind, but willing to work when told exactly what to do. Dismissed to Springside."[19]

There were also dramas with happy endings. A woman with a good record became a housekeeper for a friend. The friend's husband "led her astray," and she entered the Home May 23, 1868, aged forty. She soon went to the hospital, had twins, and came back to the Home. The father took the twins. She left the Home in the fall as a nurse, was later a housekeeper, and in June 1870, she "married quite well." A twenty-two-year-old girl came to New Haven expecting to live with her cousin. She could not find her, ran out of money, and was directed to the Home, which after a few days sent her to live with Mrs. William Fitch. Mr. Fitch made inquiries and soon discovered that the young woman's cousin lived not in New Haven, Connecticut, but in New Haven, Vermont! Another story, this one with a bittersweet ending, concerns a resident who left the Home temporarily, hoping to find her "betrayer" in North Adams, Massachusetts. Unsuccessful, she ran out of money and had to have her mother send her some. Meanwhile, the betrayer had gone to the mother, who brought the young people together, and they were married. The bride had her baby soon, but it died. The Home occasionally served as a safe haven for frightened women after marital conflict. A dispute with her husband, for example, drove a woman and her child into the Home in 1886. Later in the day he followed her there, and they were reconciled.[20]

Increasingly the care of small children became an important part of the work at The Home for the Friendless. Some came with their mothers and others were born after their mothers were admitted. In either case they had to leave when they became seven. A visitor's report spoke enthusiastically about one group of them, commenting that "they shut their eyes so tightly when saying grace that their little faces were full of wrinkles."[21]

Older women constituted the smallest category of residents. "Old and middle-aged people," the Board minutes for May 5, 1869, stated, "we do not wish to receive ordinarily, yet in extreme cases, as ours is a Home for the Friendless, when there seems no door open for them at all, we will take them for a week, but some other place must be promptly found for them."[22]

All residents except children were expected to work at the Home if they were able. Chores available to them included housecleaning, gardening, serving

meals, washing dishes, and sewing.[23]

The children often suffered from chicken pox, whooping cough, and other infantile diseases. Sometimes epidemics swept through the Home; there were fifteen simultaneous cases of measles in August 1885. The adults were frequently ill, too; six of them were sick at the same time in September 1883.[24]

All was not toil and trouble, however. Programs for the residents stressed religion but included other activities. People working in the sewing room on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons were entertained by volunteer readers. There was always a decorated tree at the annual Christmas party, and all the residents were given donated gifts. Occasionally groups of them were taken on trips to the shore of Long Island Sound. Sunday afternoon services were conducted by various New Haven pastors, and the YMCA also ran them from time to time. A Bible class was organized in 1871, and it proved to be durably popular.[25]

Anti-Catholicism was inevitable in a Home founded by Protestant churches. Originally a good many Catholics were admitted, but it was always hoped they would become converts, and there was gloating in 1875 when one young woman "became a true child of Jesus." The admission policy changed in 1881 when it was decided not to accept any more Catholics, but the records suggest that there were occasional exceptions. By September 1890, there was no question about the attitude of the Board. In that month they expelled two residents and sent them to the almshouse, having discovered that one was an opium addict and the other a Catholic.[26]

The Home had been founded to give shelter and assistance to the "vicious and the tempted," but it rapidly proved difficult to fill the institution with young women who met those criteria. The annual report dated December 2, 1868, said that the admissions policy had started to change and that a welcome was beginning to be extended to women who were "virtuous" but "weary." By this they meant destitute wives with small children, poor sick young women, and, gradually and temporarily, poor elderly women. This trend continued and increased during the rest of the first quarter century of the Home's existence.[27]

The Mary Wade Wing Is Built: 1891–1916

The population of Fair Haven grew during these years, and there were important changes in local transportation. By 1895 the trolley line was operating fifty-five closed cars, forty-four open ones, and three sweepers. On the other hand the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad abandoned its route across Fair Haven in favor of another existing one through the East Haven Tunnel. This change freed the neighborhood from considerable noise and smoke, but it removed a convenient mode of transportation.[28]

The Home stayed in good financial condition throughout this period, thanks to prudent management and various kinds of financial patronage. Donation Day

was inaugurated in 1890 as an annual in-house support drive, and nine years later it became a public event featuring door-to-door free produce solicitation, with donations transported to the Home in wagons decorated with signs.[29]

Building maintenance was a continuing concern. A hospital room was created in 1892 by turning three small rooms into one big one. Two years later a kerosene lamp was knocked over in the upstairs hall, starting a fire which was quickly smothered with blankets. This incident demonstrated that the wooden building was dangerously combustible, and it was also hard to heat and expensive to maintain. As early as 1895 the need for a new wing was seen. A fund was started, and by 1896 it had grown to $5,213.30.[30]

In 1897 Lucy Hall Boardman made it possible to undertake new construction when she gave $20,000 in honor of her sister, Mary Wade. Lucy (1819–1906) was born in Poland, Ohio, into a family that had originated in Connecticut. In 1857 she married William H. Boardman, a New Haven man whose family owned land in Ohio. She came to New Haven, and she and her husband, who was both a judge and a member of Congress, lived at 46 Hillhouse Avenue. She became Connecticut's leading female philanthropist, giving away more than $750,000, including $125,000 to Yale for the construction of Kirtland Hall (Kirtland was a family name), $100,000 to Christ Church, and $83,000 for the building of the Boardman Training School. The last-named gift was made in 1894 in memory of her husband.[31]

Her sister, Mary P. Wade (1816–1908), also was born in Poland, Ohio. She married Edward Wade of Ohio, who was also a judge and congressman, and they lived in Washington, D.C., during the Lincoln administration. He died in 1866, and she lived thereafter with the Boardmans on Hillhouse Avenue. When Lucy Boardman died, Mary Wade moved to 331 Temple Street. She, too, was very charitable.[32]

Mrs. Boardman's gift made possible the removal of the original frame building and its replacement by a three-and-a-half-story colonial revival brick structure with a peaked, slate-covered roof, designed by Leoni W. Robinson. The basement contained a furnace for steam heating and a laundry, and there were gas light fixtures in every room. At Mrs. Boardman's request the new wing was named for her sister, and the words "The Mary Wade House" were cut in stone over the front entrance. The funds collected before Mrs. Boardman's gift were used to alter and enlarge the 1873 brick building. It was connected with the new one, and a third floor consisting of bedrooms was added.[33]

The construction inevitably caused some temporary inconvenience, but a visitor's report indicated that there was "upheaval and unrest yet perfect order and neatness." As many adult residents as possible were housed in the existing wing, and most of the others were relocated in a rented building in Westville. Most of the children were placed temporarily with relatives. By May 7, 1897,

there were only thirteen adults and two babies in residence, but in November of that year everyone was back on Clinton Avenue. There had been some grumbling during the period of construction but not really much, and everyone was delighted with the final result.[34]

There were some building improvements in the years that followed. The first telephone was installed in 1899. Neighbors used it frequently, but they always paid for the privilege. The Home was connected with the Clinton Avenue sewer in 1904, and later another connection was added under Pine Street. Mrs. J. M. Greist, a Board member and later president, made a gift in 1906 which made it possible to heat the third floor. Electric bells were placed in the halls in 1910 so that the housemother could be called in cases of emergency.[35]

Between 1892 and 1916 there were five matrons, one of whom, Mary J. Slater, served fourteen years. The job of assistant matron was created in April 1910. Twenty-one housekeepers were also recorded, with children's nurses mentioned only between 1893 and 1910. Seven housemothers, beginning in 1906, were employed to care for the feeble and ailing. There were also cooks, janitors, laundresses, and what were described as "other helpers." By 1915 the staff numbered eight.[36] But only three physicians spanned those twenty-five years. The record shows that by 1904 the man who was then the house doctor was now receiving the modest fee of $250 per year.[37]

The Florence Crittenton Home opened in 1902 to care for unwed mothers and their children. The result was a decrease in such applications to The Home for the Friendless and an increased need and willingness to accept elderly women. By World War I the latter institution had become almost exclusively for older females. In October 1915, for example, there were thirty-eight residents over seventy and only two young women. There was a corresponding reduction in the number of children, two in October 1915, as compared with twenty-two on April 6, 1892.[38]

There is little doubt that in some cases religious discrimination still prevailed. "Three Catholic girls applied for admission," a visitor's report of 1913 states, "but we decided that they were not cases for us." Late in 1914 another applicant was turned down "as she is a Catholic." Yet this did not happen to every woman who sought to enter the home. Between 1894 and 1916, 14 percent of the residents with known religious affiliations were Roman Catholics, so while the denomination was underrepresented it was by no means excluded.[39]

Insight into life at the Home can be obtained by an analysis of the admissions records, which give information about 494 people who became residents from 1894 to 1916. A complete report names the newcomer (or newcomers, in cases in which a woman arrived with one or more children) and gives the date of admission, the age of the newcomer on that date, her nationality, place of birth, marital status, and religion. Eventually the date of dismissal was added,

sometimes with an explanation of why it occurred.[40]

We know the ages of 490 of the 494 people listed in these records. There were 120 children twelve years old or younger. The 177 females between thirteen and thirty-nine constituted the largest group, but most of them came during the early years, with only 36 women in their forties or fifties. Finally, however, during the latter part of the period there were 153 women residents in their sixties, seventies, and eighties and 4 ninety or older.[41]

Two hundred seventy-eight residents were recorded as Americans, 174 were born outside the United States, and 38 were said to be ethnic mixtures. Twenty-six of the Americans were black, three were mulattos, and one was half black and half Native American. Lack of information to the contrary suggests that the other 248 were native-born whites. The foreign-born residents were 45 Germans, 43 Irish, 24 English, 22 Swedish, 7 each Hungarians and Poles, 6 Scots, 3 each French, French-Canadians, Italians, and Scotch-Irish, 2 Russians, and 1 each from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, and Turkey. Fifteen people were described as Irish-Americans, 8 as German-Americans, 2 as Swedish-Americans, and 1 each as Franco-American and Scottish-American. Does this mean that each of them had one American and one foreign parent or were they being described as only partially assimilated greenhorns, what used to be referred to condescendingly as hyphenated Americans? There were others who were obviously an ethnic mixture: 4 Irish-Swedish, 3 Scottish-English, and 1 each German-Scottish, German-Irish, Irish-English, and Polish-Swiss. These records tend to call people foreigners even though they were natives of this country, for example, a German born in Philadelphia.[42]

The line in the records for place of birth is more specific and revealing than the one for nationality. Two hundred sixty-seven residents were born in Connecticut, 131 of them in New Haven, 35 in New Haven's suburbs, and 101 elsewhere in the state. One hundred nine were born in other parts of the United States, and 94 were born abroad. Thus 80 percent were natives of this country and 20 percent were not.[43]

The religious affiliations of the residents break down as follows: 104 Episcopalians, 98 Methodists, 96 Congregationalists, 63 Roman Catholics, 50 Baptists, 26 Lutherans, 9 Presbyterians, 3 Unitarians, 3 Universalists, 2 Hebrews, and 1 Seventh-Day Adventist.[44]

The ages of 172 women in the thirteen-to-thirty-nine range are known. Of this total, 47 were single and came because they needed a home, rest, or a job. Another 59 were single and pregnant or with a tiny baby. Sixty-one were married and sought refuge in the Home because of marital discord, desertion, or a sick husband. There were also 5 widows, one of whom was pregnant. Of the 34 women in their forties and fifties, 15 were single, 6 were married, and 13 were widows. Widowhood was the normal status of the 156 women sixty or over. One

hundred fourteen of them had lost their husbands, 24 were single, 17 were married, and only 1 was divorced. One of the married women had a husband who was institutionalized elsewhere, and there may have been more in that situation.[45]

The reasons for the dismissals of only 115 women thirty-nine or younger are explained in the reports. Of these, 68 left for happy reasons, 55 to take jobs and the other 13 to go to live with their families or friends. Of the 47 unfavorable outcomes, 7 ran away, 1 was sent to a hospital, 1 died, and 38 were thrown out for undesirable behavior, which included laziness, refusal to work, refusal to comply with rules, misrepresenting their situations, and lying about other things. Five were classified as "unworthy," 1 was "of awful character," and another "had several fits and it was deemed advisable to send her home." Expelled young women were frequently sent to other institutions, 18 to Springside Farm and 7 to the Industrial School for Girls in Middletown.[46]

Young women residents were trained to work and were inspired to improve themselves, and the records contain some eloquent testimony about the good things that happened to some of them. "During the year," the annual report for 1895 states, "ten young women have entered the Home, each pledging herself to redeem her past by a life of future good conduct. We have carefully trained them in domestic duties, a love for which is a weak woman's best safeguard, and after months of wise and loving oversight, added to careful spiritual instruction, we have sent them out to good homes, better armed than ever before to battle with the world and to resist temptation." The annual report four years later stressed the role of religion: "Bible lessons are frequent and are made most interesting. This direction toward a spiritual life, together with the required six months of household industry under interested supervision, often makes over the character of a weak, ignorant young girl; she learns to wish to do right, and she learns to take a pride in doing honest work and doing it well."[47]

Other incidents described in the records show how much improvement some young women made. In 1892 a former resident "called recently and stated that she now had a happy home and a good husband. Her case is but another instance illustrating the benefits of the Home's influence in saving an unfortunate girl. If left to herself, she might have gone down to the lowest class." A story from 1907 is even more inspiring. A former resident "while with us married the unwilling father of her child. He was a student at Yale, and went to the Philippines as a teacher. After a time he sent for her and the child. Recently they came back to this country for a visit, bringing three children with them. While here they bought a small house; installed his father in it, and on their return to the Islands, her salary (for she also was teaching) was raised to $1,200 a year."[48]

Not all the stories had happy endings. On June 2, 1902, when an eighteen-

Fair Haven and Westville Rail Road Company stock certificate dated October 1, 1902. This horse-drawn railroad ran on Grand Avenue.

year-old girl was dismissed to take a job, she was three days late getting to it because she went first to Savin Rock with friends and then wandered out to Branford. The records describe her as "a low, lying, deceitful girl, given to being out nights and leading a low life."[49]

Most of the children admitted to the Home came with their mothers or were born soon after their mothers became residents. There were, however, occasional exceptions to that pattern. For example, "a temporary permit was given October 11, 1899, for the admission of three children whose mother had died a short time before from burns caused by the explosion of a lamp. Their father paying $1.50 a week. This is but another of the cases where the value of an institution like this cannot be overestimated." The annual report for 1894 claimed that youthful residents of all ages benefited greatly from the care they received. "Many of the children who come to us are pitiful little objects, dirty, half fed, showing the effects of continued ill-treatment and knowing little save the evil of the streets in which their few years have been passed, but the baby innocence of heart is there, and in a very short time they are clean and hearty, and all of their past life is crowded out of their minds by the happy present, with its regular training of mind and body, and, most of all, soul." Kindness and gentle discipline did not always work. There is a report about one little resident who "needs the use of soap and water to cleanse his mouth of filthy words." The records contain only twenty-five explanations of where youngsters went when they were dismissed from the Home. Eight went to live with their mother, one with a sister, and five with other families. The others were transferred to institutions, five to the New Haven Orphan Asylum, four to the County Home, and one each to the Industrial Home for Girls and St. Francis Orphan Asylum.[50]

By 1893 there were twenty residents over forty, and the trend continued for several reasons. Most people were allowed to stay only six months, but there were some exceptions, and some women had grown old there. Furthermore, it was the only nonsectarian home in Connecticut that was free to old women who could not afford to be boarders. In addition, the Board found it increasingly difficult to refuse admission to women whose age made it impossible for them to continue supporting themselves. "It is a sad thing to be dropped out of the current of life," one visitor's report stated, "and sadder yet to lose the universal touch in all little things which make up the sum of life. The effect is hardening, and we need to exercise the utmost charity towards these feeble old women." One observer thought of the residents as "waiting for the Heavenly Father to call them to another Home while thanking him for providing this one."[51]

The admissions policy was flexible and sometimes creative. A woman nearing eighty was admitted in 1893 even though she was not homeless because her son, with whom she lived, became abusive when under the influence of alcohol. When a seventy-year-old with a little money applied five years later, it was

decided that she would be better off living with someone, and she was put in touch with a woman who had recently asked about the possibility of finding a companion. Another applicant was rejected in 1916 because "she could pay more board than we asked and was not friendless."[52]

We know what eventually happened to 183 older residents. Sixty, or about one-third of them, stayed on and died at the Home. Ninety-five were in good standing when they were dismissed. Of these 35 were sent to a hospital, where they died; 22 went to live with somebody, usually a relative or friend; 4 apparently vigorous ladies left to take jobs; and 35 left with no recorded explanation, but apparently amiably and by mutual consent. Ten women were sent to other institutions where they could obtain more specialized care, 8 to Springside Farm, and 2 to the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane. One example was a blind epileptic girl who was admitted on May 8, 1869, at the age of eighteen. Her only relative, her mother, died in January 1884, and she then began having more frequent fits and showing signs of insanity. So, after twenty-five years at the Home, she was sent to Springside Farm, where she died five years after that. The other 18 residents were expelled from the Home for causes which were explained in the records; for example, "very troublesome and probably dishonest," "unsuitable person," "disorderly and disobedient," "wouldn't work and made mischief with her incessant talking," "more care than we could give her," "on drugs, and rather out of her mind."[53]

Reassignment to another institution was always determined by the case in question. Twenty-nine needed medical attention, and 21 of these went to New Haven Hospital, while the rest went to Grace Hospital. Thirteen went to Springside Farm, 9 to the Industrial School for Girls, 4 each to the New Haven Orphan Asylum and the County Home, and 1 each to St. Francis Orphan Asylum, Florence Crittenton Home, and the YWCA. Some black applicants were referred after 1900 to the Hannah Gray Home.[54]

The care of the sick and injured is always demanding, and in the early years of this period, when many children lived at the Home, epidemics swept through the building with a vengeance. There were seven outbreaks of measles between 1892 and 1901, a bad siege of diphtheria in 1893, grippe in 1898, whooping cough in 1899 and 1901, and in 1901 colds and chicken pox.[55]

But those in good health had much to look forward to and enjoy, for by now there was a well-developed program of entertainment and religious activities. Parties were given annually to celebrate New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Someone periodically brought a phonograph and played it on the main floor, where people gathered. A henhouse built in the rear yard about 1902 provided not only eggs for the kitchen but something for the residents to watch and talk about. Trips for residents were not frequent, but the few which did take place were well planned and much enjoyed. There was a

carriage ride to East Rock in 1892. The entire family was invited to a Board member's home in 1896, and twenty-eight residents were able to go. There was a tea later that year at the Home of another Board member. An outing was held at a home in Woodmont in 1901 for the children as well as adults, and some of them stayed on as house guests for several days. The same year the children all went on a festive trolley ride. In 1906 there was a six-car ride to Savin Rock, where everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream.[56]

People continued to be generous to the Home and its residents, donating such things as food, clothing, a baby carriage, and 125 hymnbooks. Food and also gifts and money for the residents were contributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and somebody always paid for the Christmas tree. Local merchants were also benefactors, selling supplies to the Home at a discount.[57]

A Home for Elderly Women: 1917–1941

During this period policy changes were explored by the Home's leadership, and there was a partial, temporarily inclusive change of name. "At the weekly and monthly meetings," the annual report for 1924 indicated, "the discussions have been along the lines of how we could do the most good for the greatest number." There was talk in 1927 of adding a cottage for elderly couples, but no action was taken. The charter was amended in 1931 so that either one of two names could be used to describe the institution: the traditional Home for the Friendless or the newly authorized Mary Wade Home. At the same time it was stipulated that funds could be used for men as well as women. As there was no real interest at that time in serving men, this option remained for the time being merely a possibility.[58]

Supported by generous contributions, the Home, by whichever name one chose to call it, stayed in good financial condition, even after the Depression began. The situation was so favorable in 1927 that it was announced that donations for current needs were not being solicited. In 1931 "the surplus of our income was more than enough to carry us on in our present work," and the Board even gave brief consideration to adding another wing to the building. A year later the Board gave almost $6,000 to the Family Society to help needy people who were not residents of the Home. This assistance to "outside cases" continued at a reduced level through the next two years, $4,000 in 1933 and about $2,000 in 1934, and then apparently it stopped.[59]

The fee for board at the Home depended on an individual's ability to pay. The rate in 1937 was raised, but only to $6 a week maximum and $4 minimum. Some paid full board, some paid part, and the rest, usually about half of the residents, lived there free. These rates seem now to have been very low, but it must be remembered that costs were also low. A bill sent to the Home in 1937 from the John E. Bassett Co. charged 5¢ for a light bulb, 10¢ each for paintbrushes and

flashlight batteries, $1.35 for a broom, and $1.45 for a garbage can.[60]

The residents' ability to pay board actually improved in two ways during the lean years of the Depression. Social Security was established in 1935, and the Home, "from what was an establishment dependent upon contributions from churches, an annual 'Donation Day,' and individual bounty, now became a retirement Home." Later that same year the executive committee noted that some people were starting to qualify for pensions.[61]

In the 1920s a good deal of building improvement took place. A new sidewalk was laid in 1922, several rooms were painted, and a staff lavatory was built. In 1925 a new gas range was installed, new linoleum was laid in all the bathrooms, shelves for linen were installed, and the windows leading out to the fire escape were replaced by doors. Two years later a mangle made it possible to do all the laundry on the premises. At the same time all lead pipes were replaced with brass, and two new light fixtures illuminated the dining room. What pleased the residents most was the conversion of a little-used room at the end of the corridor into a meeting room, making the large front room exclusively a sitting room. The advent of an elevator in 1928 eased the lives of the second-floor residents, but two bedrooms had to be sacrificed to make room for the shaft. The fire escapes were somewhat altered, and extra fire alarm bells were added inside the building. More new easy-care linoleum was laid in some rooms, and a bright rug was placed in the office.[62]

Building alterations continued through the 1930s. Two boilers were purchased in 1930, linoleum was put down in the dining room and kitchen, and fire exit lights were installed on the second floor. Two years later some partitions were changed to create eight more bedrooms, increasing the capacity to forty-eight beds. The addition of an automatic hot water heater was a much-appreciated luxury. In 1934 all exposed wiring in the basement was placed in conduits. The gardens behind the building were laid out and planted in 1937, full-length screens were added to the third-floor windows, and, as well, considerable painting was done. Porches were built on the west side of the building in 1938, with a fire escape alongside.[63]

The hurricane of 1938 did not do great damage to the building, but it caused considerable inconvenience. Rain and wind came in some windows, making it necessary to move fourteen residents from their rooms temporarily. Several of them camped out in two empty bedrooms and the nurse's room, and the others went to the living room and the second- and third-floor locker rooms, where cots were set up. The Home was without electricity for four days, with the result that there was no heat, hot water, electric light, or elevator service. This situation necessitated considerable extra work, such as carrying hot water to all the occupied bedrooms. The subsequent removal of a tree and repairs to the sidewalk and roof cost $319.43.[64]

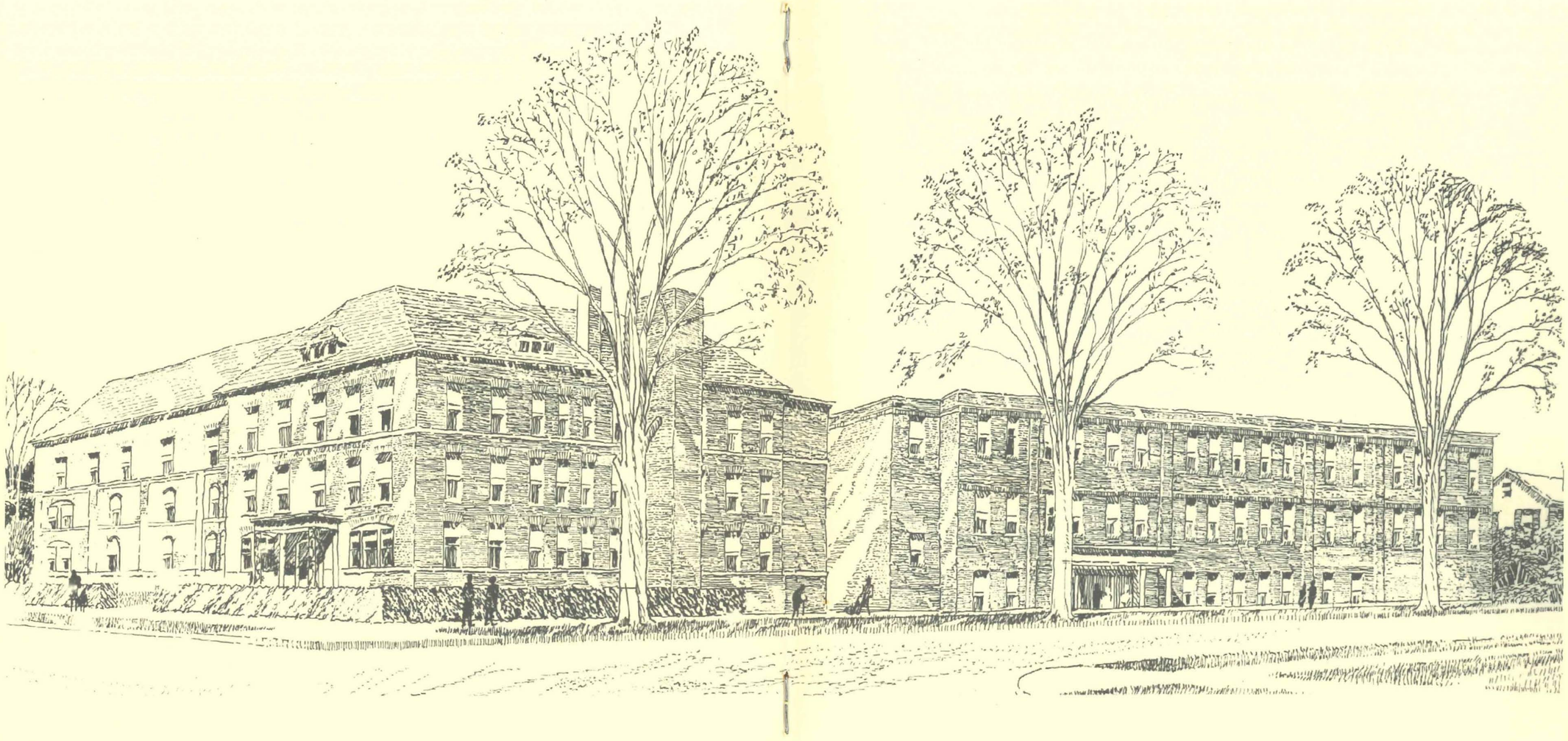
The size of the staff fluctuated a bit, but it continued to average approximately eight. The matron, whose title was changed to superintendent in 1929, was assisted by one or more women with the following job descriptions: nurse, housekeeper, cook, maid, laundress, and extra cleaning woman. Carrie S. M. Dorr was matron and then superintendent from 1917 to 1937 and retired then only because of ill health. Margaret Murray acted as nurse from 1911 to 1921 and again from 1923 to 1937, a remarkable total of twenty-four years.[65]

An even greater length of service was achieved by Dr. Burdette S. Adams, who was the regular physician from 1898 to 1933, and the Board of Managers expressed its gratitude to him by continuing to list him as the Home's nominal doctor even after several strokes made him inactive. Dr. Joseph Groark began his service in 1931 and was still performing it in 1941. Both men charged for the assistance they rendered, but they charged very little.[66]

The Board members involved in making decisions about applications for admission paid a lot of attention during this period to the applicants' assets and religious orientation. An eighty-one-year-old woman in perfect health, worth about $900 and with a daughter willing to be responsible for her, was rejected in 1920, "as she is neither homeless nor friendless." A woman worth $700 was told in 1927 to go to a boarding house, use up some of her money, and then reapply. An applicant in 1928, being Catholic, was not admitted. The Executive Board debated in 1935 about excluding Christian Scientists because they did not recognize illness or accept medical attention. After considerable discussion the matter was tabled for later consideration.[67]

The Home was filled to capacity or close to it during the years between the wars. From 1917 to 1931, when there were forty beds, the average occupancy was about thirty-nine. Room rearrangement in 1932 increased the maximum to forty-eight, and from then on the average was close to forty-six. At least during the latter years there always seems to have been a waiting list.[68]

There is ample evidence that most of these mature residents were pleased with their lives at the Home. The annual report for 1923 gives us insight into the attitude of one resident. "One of our visitors for the year reported that the woman on whom she made her first call radiated sunshine in the Home," it stated. "Although dependent on one crutch, as she has been for forty-two years, she still gets about and helps with the work. While waiting she visits her friends. She has made a dress for one of them, and is happy and contented." Commenting about the entire population of the Home, the visitor's report for March 1924 tells us that "the old ladies have been remarkably cheerful and most cordial when I called. It is always a surprise to me that they can be so cheery and interested when so many are shut in so closely for so many weeks during the winter. They always give me as much sunshine as I do them." The many people who came to see friends at the Home must have helped to keep up their spirits.



The Mary Wade Home today. The Home for the Aged is at the left, facing Clinton Avenue. The Nursing Home added in 1989 is at the right facing Pine Street. Drawing by Carl Blanchard.

Resident Clara Ortman having citizenship bestowed on her at the Home by U.S. District Judge Carroll C. Hincks in 1947.

There were more than fifteen hundred visitors in 1934 and more than nineteen hundred in 1937.[69]

The records still refer to residents as inmates, but they now also call them collectively the family. The statistics for this period show dramatically how life at the Home had changed. First of all, there were fewer residents, 190 compared with 490 during 1892 and 1916, and they stayed longer. Young people had virtually disappeared; there were only 4 residents under forty years of age, versus 397 during the previous twenty-five years. Even what might be called the middle-aged admissions group had declined in numbers; there were 10 in their forties and fifties now, whereas there had been 36 previously. Women sixty and over filled the Home. During this era 173 of them constituted 91 percent of the total population, whereas between 1892 and 1916 there had been only 157, or 32 percent.[70]

Fewer of the residents' nationalities were recorded in the years between the wars than there were previously. Of the 176 whose origins were noted in the reports, 136, or 77 percent, were Americans, an increase from 57 percent, and the term "colored" was no longer used. The 39 foreign-born consisted of 14 from England, 10 from Germany, 4 from Scotland, 3 each from France, Ireland, and Sweden, and 1 each from the Netherlands and Wales. They formed 22 percent of the 1917–41 population, a reduction from 35 percent during the previous period. There was only 1 ethnic mixture this time, an English-American, as opposed to the earlier 38. This could represent a real reduction or simply decreased awareness of hyphenated Americans.[71]

The geographical distribution of places of birth remained about the same as during the years between 1892 and 1916. The largest number were born in Connecticut, the second-largest number were born elsewhere in the United States, and the rest were born abroad.[72]

Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and Methodists remained the most numerous religious sects, represented in the Home by 46, 40, and 35 members, respectively. There also were 28 Baptists, 7 Christian Scientists (there had never been any until now), 4 Lutherans, 4 Presbyterians, 3 Universalists, and 1 each of four hitherto unrepresented groups: an Advent Christian, a Quaker, a Second Adventist, and a Spiritualist. The big change was in Roman Catholic representation. During the previous period there were 63; this time there were none.[73]

The marital status of only 177 residents was recorded. Of these there were only 3 who were between thirteen and thirty-nine, and all of them were pregnant, unmarried women. The 10 who were between forty and fifty-nine consisted of 3 single women, 2 married ones, and 5 widows. Ninety-three percent of the total population was sixty or older. Of these 164 women, 45 were single, 7 were married, 1 was separated, and the large majority, 110 of them, were widows.[74]

The record tells us what eventually became of 140 of these residents between 1917 and 1941. As the story unfolds, one of the women under forty left to take a job, another was dismissed to go to her family, and the third one was expelled from the Home for bad conduct. Eighty-three of the older residents stayed on and died there, an increase to 60 percent from about one-third last time. Thirty-seven were in good standing when they were dismissed, 21 to enter hospitals, where they died, 14 to live with family or friends, and 2 with no recorded explanations but apparently by mutual consent. The other 17 were expelled, 6 to Springside Farm and 11 dismissed for incompatibility. Four of these were disobedient, and 3 became unhappy. One "got difficult," another proved to be "unsuitable," still another became senile, and the other one was "found to be a resident of Canada and to have descendants able to pay for her care."[75]

It is interesting to see where residents of all ages were sent. Ten went to the Connecticut State Hospital in Middletown, and, as was mentioned previously, 7 ended up at Springside Farm. Five each went to Grace Hospital, the Masonic Home in Wallingford, and the Methodist Home in West Haven. Three were sent to New Haven Hospital, 2 to the Industrial School for Girls in Middletown, and 1 each went to Carewell Nursing Home, Center Church Home, the Church Home in Hartford, Connecticut State Hospital in Norwich, Grove Hall Nursing Home, and Ocean View Convalescent Home.[76]

But the records are filled with descriptions of jolly events designed to entertain the ones who were able to stay and become part of the family, however briefly. Every holiday was celebrated, even Washington's Birthday, and the Christmas festivities became a lovely tradition. In 1933, for example, every resident was given a wastebasket containing an apple, an orange, a box of candy, talcum powder, stationery, an unbreakable tumbler, a flowerpot, and a one-dollar bill. At other times there were readings, music, plays, and one-time-only events such as the showing of pictures taken during someone's trip around the world.[77]

But the residents' own trips were closer to home. One spectacular one was a musical garden party in 1924 on the lawn of Mrs. Rutherford Trowbridge, who was then president of the Board of Managers. Other outings, routine by now, were often as not no longer recorded.[78]

Gifts poured in and were gratefully received. In 1917, just as the craze for recorded music swept the country, a victrola found its way to the sitting room complete with the latest records. In 1929 an Atwater Kent radio brought voices from far-off places right to the family gathered about. Other wonderful donations included a "Birthday Chair" given in 1923 to be used by the guest of honor at every birthday party at the Home. In 1927 Harry Laveties offered the residents free access to moving pictures shown at his Pequot Theater. He and the man who succeeded him as owner continued this generous custom for at least

ten years. And the Sunshine Society gave money for trolley fares for summer outings.[79]

The Mary Wade Home: 1942–1966

A decision was made in 1966 that the name Home for the Friendless was outdated, which indeed it was. Accordingly the institution was no longer known by one of two designations, and it became exclusively The Mary Wade Home.[80]

During these years the leadership structure was also in need of reorganization. A constitutional amendment in 1950 provided for both an advisory committee to recommend making and changing investments and an advisory investment committee to execute those recommendations, both groups to consist of men plus the president in an ex-officio capacity. By 1957 the officers of the Home consisted of the president, three vice presidents, the treasurer, the recording secretary, the corresponding secretary, an assistant to the secretary, an assistant treasurer, and an accountant. The New Haven Union Trust Company acted as treasurer, the accountant was a man, and all the others were women. There were forty women on the Board of Managers, representing nineteen Protestant churches. The following committees concentrated on particular aspects of the administration: executive, finance and personnel, house, admissions, membership, visiting, nominating, and entertainment. In 1958 the entertainment committee became the social committee, and several new one-lady committees were set up: wardrobe, sunshine, historical, and devotions.[81]

During World War II it was difficult to retain staff and obtain supplies, and thereafter there was inflation, but prudent management kept the Home financially sound in spite of some fluctuations. It just about broke even in 1953, enjoyed a very comfortable year in 1955, but had to work hard to stay on an even keel after that. It cost more to operate in 1961 than it had in 1960, but the Home nevertheless managed to function within its income.[82]

Building maintenance continued to consume a lot of time and money. A trial blackout in 1942 demonstrated the need to darken the kitchen and first-floor toilet windows, and this was accordingly done. There were many structural changes in 1946 to comply with new fire laws, the program costing $5,000. The basement ceilings were repaired in 1956, and the boiler room was painted. There was considerable painting in 1962, and two rear porches were repaired.[83]

The physical plant was also improved. The first oil burner was installed in 1946. Five years later the attic was insulated, twenty-one storm windows were added, and new handrails were built into the front steps. In 1953 the kitchens were completely remodeled. There were a number of innovations in 1956: glass partitions in the front doors, handrails in the elevators, a new bathroom for the superintendent, new steel cabinets for linen and supplies, a new washing machine, a clothes dryer, a mixer, and a deep-freezer. The transoms were covered

with sheet-rock to improve fire protection, and a new fire exit was built on the second floor. In 1957 a sprinkler system was added, and a two-thousand-gallon fuel tank was buried under the front lawn. Two years later twelve chairs, six lawn chairs, rugs, and a bathtub were purchased, and new water mains were laid. Furniture purchases continued in 1960, when thirty beds and springs, six platform rockers, and some dressers were acquired, and in 1962, when eight new maple tables and fifty-four chairs were placed in the dining room and a complete new china service was bought. That same year handrails were put in the halls to comply with state regulations, walks were laid in the garden, and a new elevator replaced the worn-out one. Finally, in 1966, a new sidewalk was laid along Pine Street.[84]

Seven women served as superintendent between 1942 and 1966, and during some of these years there was also an assistant superintendent. There was normally more than one nurse, and both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses were employed. A new job introduced during this period was night watchman. By the 1960s the staff normally consisted of about twenty-five people, including a janitor described only as Joe, who retired on May 9, 1961, after thirty-one years, and Alvera Schappa, who died in 1964 after twenty years in various capacities culminating in housekeeper.[85]

The Home continued to have a regular attending physician. During the latter years of this era it was Dr. Morris Glazer.[86]

It had always been the policy of the Home to admit only New Haven residents, but in 1945 the Board voted to expand eligibility to include women who lived in East Haven, Hamden, North Haven, Orange, Woodbridge, and West Haven. In that same year the state legislature created the Old Age Assistance Fund, and fifteen residents of the Home began receiving support, part of which was used in payment of their board.[87] The average number of residents during this quarter of a century was slightly over forty. That level had been considered the practical maximum during the 1950s, but in 1961 the Home was issued a license authorizing a capacity of forty-four persons.[88]

Residents were older when they entered the Home than had been the case previously, 89 percent of them being seventy or more on the date of admission. Because they stayed much longer on the average, there were fewer of them, 63 during these years as compared with 190 between 1892 and 1916. The population evidently changed in quality as well as statistically, because the admissions reports no longer contain colorful tales of misspent lives and misbehavior in the Home.[89]

Of the residents whose nationalities were shown in the records, 53 out of 62, or 85 percent, were born in this country, a larger part of the total than ever before. Of the 9 born abroad, 3 had become naturalized Americans prior to admission, and a fourth one, Miss Clara Ortman, had citizenship bestowed on

her in 1948 in a ceremony at the Home when she was eighty-nine years old. Born in Germany and left an orphan at three, she had migrated in 1884, and she supported herself as a dressmaker until she entered the Home in 1935. She had applied for citizenship immediately after World War I, but a fractured hip delayed the realization of her dream. Late in 1947 she reapplied and passed the examination. United States District Judge Carroll C. Hincks and other court officials made a special trip out to Clinton Avenue for the bestowal of citizenship, which was witnessed by approximately thirty-five people, including superintendent Maria Uhl, twelve Board members, and seven members of the Mary Clapp Wooster and Eve Lear Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.[90]

The places of birth of only 62 residents in the 1942–66 period were recorded, but while the numbers are smaller, the geographical pattern remains about the same as it was previously. There were 12 women who were born in New Haven, 9 born in the immediate suburbs, and 13 born elsewhere in Connecticut, for a total of 34. Nineteen were natives of other parts of this country, and 9 were born abroad.[91]

The most popular religious denominations continued to be the Congregationalists, with 20 members, and the Episcopalians and Methodists, with 11 each. Another 13 women whose affiliations were recorded belonged to a total of six sects, and still another 5 were described simply as Protestant. Once again, there were no Catholic residents.[92]

Young women had totally disappeared from the population of the Home, but the marital pattern among the older ones remained about as it had been during the previous period. Of the 2 women who were admitted while in their fifties, one was single, and the other was a widow. The 59 residents who were sixty years old or more broke down as follows: 23 single, 4 married, 0 separated or divorced, and 34 widowed.[93]

Only 31 dismissals were explained, and of these 12 women stayed on and died at the Home, and 19 were in good standing when they left for a hospital or nursing home or to live elsewhere. What is new this time is that absolutely no one was thrown out because of some sort of misbehavior. It is clear that Mary Wade now contained a happier, better-adjusted, and better-behaved family and that it was an easier place to manage.[94]

Celebrations of every national holiday and every resident's birthday continued. During the war Mr. Harcke, the night watchman, played Santa Claus, as he always had on Christmas, but he used a lantern instead of his usual flashlight because of "dim out" regulations. There were also many concerts. For example, the children's choir from the Church of the Redeemer sang at the Home on April, 19, 1960, and brought Easter favors and candy to give to their audience. Soon thereafter the Junior League singers led by Mrs. Fenno Heath and the Railroad

Glee Club both entertained the ladies. The residents had little time to be lonely; the guest book for 1962 was signed by 2,842 people.[95]

There appear to have been more trips for residents than ever before. A garden party was given in Woodbridge for the whole family in 1950. Mrs. Thomas F. Paradise, president of the Board of Managers, 1951–57, entertained the residents at her home in Short Beach in 1952 and again in 1953. Board member Mrs. George Darling gave garden parties for the Board and the family in 1953 and 1954. An annual June garden party was given at Rockland Park. Other tours included several chartered bus trips to see spring and fall foliage, the seashore, and Christmas trees and decorations.[96]

The Home and its residents continued to receive thoughtful gifts. Between 1960 and 1962 the New Haven Post Office donated magazines, presumably ones that it had been unable to deliver to the addressees. On several occasions Mayor Richard C. Lee sent flowers.[97]

A Full-Service Institution for Women—and Men: 1967–1991

At the beginning of this most recent era the Home admitted only women, and it was exclusively a home for the aged, which meant that it could accommodate only residents fully able to take care of themselves. By 1991 the Board had been accepting men for eight years, and it had become a provider of intermediate care and twenty-four-hour care, so that it was offering the full range of service to people of advanced age. The theme of this quarter-century is the successful drive by The Mary Wade Home to open its facilities to people of both sexes and to expand its usefulness by adding to the services it offered.[98]

These dramatic developments inspired the need for change in the Home's leadership in two important ways: both men and Catholics were invited onto the Board. The first men were elected to it in 1976, and in 1990 Frank C. Hepler became the first male president. A constitutional amendment put through in 1977 states in part, "The Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Managers...who shall as far as possible be representative of the various religious faiths of greater New Haven." As of 1991 eighteen churches were represented on the Board, six of them being Roman Catholic. There was also a geographical outreach, so that nine communities were represented: six churches in New Haven, three in Hamden, two each in East Haven and North Haven, and one each in West Haven, Branford, North Branford, Guilford, and distant Meriden.[99]

The Board consisted of twenty-six members, eight of whom were officers, and three honorary members and the administrator, who served in an ex-officio capacity. Six of the officers and two other Board members constituted the executive committee. The other committees were admissions, adult day care, building and maintenance, devotions, entertainment and social, finance, garden, internal audit, long range planning, nominating, personnel, residents' activities,

Sunday worship, and visiting.[100]

The Home operated in the red during most of the period between 1966 and 1976, but then the situation improved and there was financial stability thereafter. For many years the Union Trust Company acted as the treasurer, but this changed in 1982 when an individual was elected to the job. The bylaws were amended in 1985 to allow the treasurer to serve more than two consecutive terms.[101]

The size of the resident family averaged about thirty-four from 1967 to 1972. In 1972 the Clinton Avenue wing was changed into an infirmary with a nursing station. The entire wing was redecorated and renamed the McLean Wing, honoring two sisters who resided at the Home for many years. The Home was then licensed for thirty-two old-age beds and ten nursing care beds, which soon changed to twenty-seven old-age beds and twenty nursing care beds. This expansion helped the Home's income, particularly because the state underwrote the cost of nursing care much more than it did minimal care.[102]

Legislative changes in 1974 further increased the involvement of both the state and federal governments in all aspects of care for the elderly, but this added support, as it turned out, worked to the disadvantage of The Mary Wade Home. Under the new rules the Home's corridors were too narrow for intermediate nursing care, so it had to stop offering that service. There was a resultant drop in population, down to an average of about thirty-five, and there was a corresponding loss of income. More residents were needed, and an effort was made to attract them. Another problem was that applicants who could pay board were becoming rare.[103]

Reduced income did not deter the Home from making necessary improvements to the physical plant, and a good deal of work was done between 1975 and 1980. The old laundry room in the basement was dismantled, the boiler room and the old coal bunker were cleaned and painted, and a storage room with shelving was built for the housekeeper's use. The entire establishment was rewired, a boiler was replaced, and triple-track storm windows were installed throughout the building. The dining room was redecorated, and the first-floor sun porch was repainted and improved in other ways. The first-floor halls were also painted and papered, and more handrails were added. Three porches were repaired, almost all the bedrooms were cleaned, repaired, and painted, and a small refrigerator was placed in the nurse's station.[104]

The constitutional amendment of 1977 described a goal for the Home which could include expanded facilities and service without specifically stating that an effort would be made to achieve that objective. "The purpose of the Corporation," it stated, "shall be to provide a home for needy persons who are temporarily or permanently unable to provide for themselves, and who have no other sufficient means of support." In 1980 the status of the Home was changed

from an intermediate care facility to a rest home, thereby enabling it to qualify for state and federal funds. This redefinition brought more residents into the available space. By 1983 the establishment was full for the first time in years, and it remained substantially filled thereafter.[105]

On April 27, 1982, administrator David V. Hunter presented the executive committee with reasons for considering adding a wing to the existing building to provide skilled nursing care rather than having to transfer sick residents to convalescent hospitals and homes. The executive committee voted to appoint a long-range planning committee to study the practicality of the proposal. By late 1983 an architect had submitted a proposal to explore the feasibility of erecting a sixty-bed nursing facility on the property. Stephen Ronai and Robert V. Giunta, Jr., of Murtha, Cullina, Richter and Pinney acted as attorneys.[106]

In 1986 The Mary Wade Home retained Mediplex Group, Incorporated, developers of health care facilities, to design and construct a building. The preliminary plans by architect John Eberle called for a 33,369-square-foot, three-story structure to be located on the back side of the property and to be attached to the existing facility. It was to house a thirty-bed intermediate nursing care area, a thirty-bed skilled nursing care area, and space for adult care. A new large kitchen would provide meals for the entire complex, replacing the existing one. Approval was received from the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals late in 1986. The State Commission on Hospitals and Health Care approved the Home's Certificate of Need application, and this was announced at the July 23, 1987, Board meeting. Financing the $4,320,000 nursing addition was arranged through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds authorized by the Connecticut Development Authority and underwritten by Herbert J. Sims & Co., Inc.[107]

The ground breaking ceremony on April 12, 1988, was bound to have been an exciting event, but it became even more dramatic than expected when Board member John Kimberly presented a $150,000 check from the Center Church Home Board, Inc., for construction of the four private rooms in the new facility. The two Dimock sisters had left that money to Center Church to help pay for a new church home. It proved to be impractical to build it, so a decision was made to give the money to The Mary Wade Home. Construction was completed under the supervision of architect Joseph A. Simeone III during the early months of 1989, and furniture was delivered in mid-April. The ribbon cutting occurred on June 25, 1989. A porch had also been added to the older building. The new construction had done away with the little-used garden, and it was felt that a porch would give the residents a more useful replacement. The popularity of the porch with the residents has more than justified that decision.[108]

The Mary Wade Home now had its previous forty-three-bedroom building to be used as a home for the aged, a new thirty-bed intermediate care facility, and a new thirty-bed skilled care facility, and it had leapt dramatically from its former

status to an institution superbly equipped to supply all three levels of service. New residents rapidly filled the expanded capacity, and the rooms continued thereafter to be fully utilized. In November 1991, just one week before the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Home, a fourth service for the elderly was introduced when an adult day care program was begun.[109]

The staff necessarily grew along with the size of the building and the number of services offered. Averaging a little over twenty-five at the beginning of this period, it was close to thirty by 1979, and once the new wing was opened it ballooned to a little over one hundred. During the years between 1967 and 1991 three women and then a succession of five men have headed the staff, and their titles have changed from superintendent to director, then to manager, and finally in 1976 to administrator. David V. Hunter took over that post in 1981 and was honored by the Board of Managers for ten years of service when the Board celebrated its 125th anniversary. A pension plan was adopted in 1987.[110]

Three employees rendered particularly long service during this period. Lydia Willis retired as secretary-treasurer in 1973 after fifteen years on the payroll. Esther Burness retired as housekeeping supervisor in 1983 after twenty-five years. Ada Savino, later Ada Piemontese, who held a variety of assignments during her twenty-three years at the Home, was the housekeeping supervisor when she retired in 1986.[111]

The key staff members in 1991 were David V. Hunter, administrator; Teresa Giampietro, administrative assistant; Sister Mary Richards, F.S.E., business manager: Eileen R. Paul, resident coordinator; Kathleen Flannigan, medical records coordinator; Elizabeth K. Lederer, R.N., director of nurses; Susan Magoveny, assistant director of nurses; Laurene Franchi, food service supervisor; Elizabeth Barrett, therapeutic recreation director; Kathryn Adams, social service director; Nancy Almeida, housekeeping and laundry supervisor; and Joseph C. Ortowski, plant maintenance supervisor.[112]

The officers and Executive Committee members for 1991–92 were Frank C. Hepler, president; John J. Schmitz, first vice president; Robert Rintoul, second vice president; William B. Gumbart, Jr., treasurer; Margaret C. DeVane, recording secretary; Nancy Johnstone, assistant recording secretary; Marilyn P. Carter, corresponding secretary; Katherine E. J. Hauschild, assistant corresponding secretary; and Julie A. Dauria and John T. Kimberly, Executive Committee members. Other members of the Board of Managers were Shari Aurelio, Maureen Bloss, Carmel Cronin, Jane K. Dewell, Helen H. Dougherty, Grady L. Garner, Melville C. Greeley, Fred L. Hunziker, Ollidine B. Keeler, Marion L. Kellogg, Beatrice B. Kimberly, Bruce Lewellyn, Tracy S. Nabstedt, Marianne W. Prokop, Edith C. Reemsnyder, Dr. Daniel S. Rowe, Anne Schmalz, and David V. Hunter, ex officio. Honorary members were Louise Brainard, Betty Smith, Charles Smith, Eleanor L. Steinnecker, and Edith H. Suttie.

Medical care became more complex as the Home's services broadened. At the start of this period there was still one house doctor who came as needed. Dr. Morris Glazer filled this role through 1974, and he was then succeeded by Dr. Alfred J. Ranieri. When the level of medical care increased, a medical director was needed, and Dr. Qaiyum Mujtaba was appointed in 1989. Several other physicians served with him.[113]

While the new wing was being planned, it became clear that The Mary Wade Home needed some additional acreage in order to meet the City of New Haven's planning and zoning regulations, and there was also a need for additional parking space. In order to accomplish these two purposes the Board arranged in 1985 to buy the house located at 71 Pine Street for $74,500. A two-story Greek Revival building approximately sixty by forty-two feet, with a wooden frame and a gable roof, it was built a little before 1850.[114]

The Board purchased 100 Clinton Avenue, a house located behind The Mary Wade Home, in 1990. The house on this lot, which was in poor condition, was demolished, giving the Home a larger back yard, and it was determined that a garden would be created there, replacing the lost one.[115]

During the years between 1967 and 1991 there was more social activity for the residents than ever before, a mixture of annual and one-time-only events. Such holidays as Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas were celebrated every year. One of the best remembered of these parties was in 1982, when 180 children from Strong School paraded through the Home in Halloween costumes, led by a band from Fair Haven Middle School. Other regular or at least frequent occurrences included weekly bingo games (discontinued in 1983), biweekly musical and pictorial programs, teas given by residents for their friends, singing of hymns and old favorites, poetry reading sessions, films, exercise classes, and, since 1983, classes in flower arranging. There continued, of course, to be Sunday afternoon worship services, and Catholic services were introduced in 1982.[116]

One particularly notable party was given at the Home in January 1976 to celebrate the ninety-sixth birthday of Mrs. Charlotte Patterson Plummer, a life-long Fair Haven resident who had 143 living descendants. She loved the Quinnipiac River so much that she had written poems about it, including:

> Many times we played on its shores,
> And would row to the island and back.
> We would sit on the ice in winter,
> On dear old Quinnipiac.[117]

Some other special occasions gave the residents great pleasure. Mayor Frank Logue made a surprise dinner visit to the Home in 1978. There were several white wine parties for the residents in 1981. In 1984 they were addressed by a speaker from the New Haven Colony Historical Society. That same year there

was an all-day arts and crafts show in the garden, with entertainment and refreshments. The Home's 120th birthday party took place on December 7, 1986. There was a brief ceremony followed by several talks. One of them was by Edith C. Reemsnyder, who recalled her memories of the Home, which went all the way back to 1912. She grew up across the street from the institution, and while still very young often was sent over by her mother to play for the three o'clock Sunday worship service. She continued her close relationship with Mary Wade and served as its president from 1970 to 1974.[118]

The residents continued to have frequent opportunities to go on trips. Every year there was a ride to Fairfield in May to see the dogwood in bloom and a red leaf ride in the autumn, and there were also visits to concerts, musicals, the ice follies, and the circus.[119]

Another continuing tradition was gifts to the Home and to its family. Lighted magnifying glasses were donated for the residents' use in 1973. A year later a reed organ was bequeathed to the Home by Kathie and Cecil L'Hommedieu.[120]

The Mary Wade Home is justifiably proud of its century and a quarter of superb service, and it was to be expected that there would be a lively celebration of its 125th birthday. The special activities went on all week, from Monday, November 11, 1991, through Sunday, November 17.[121]

On Monday afternoon Floyd M. Shumway gave a talk on the history of The Mary Wade Home. Sitting next to the speaker was staff member Mary Foley, dressed in a costume she had made which gave her very much the appearance of the original Mary Wade. The next afternoon there was musical entertainment by Vinnie Carr.[122] On Wednesday an Intergenerational Program in the morning preceded singing and guitar playing in the afternoon by Les Julian. Thursday's activities began with music by Scottish bagpiper Durant McCurley, and later in the day there was an ice sculpturing demonstration by Brian Lombard.[123]

Friday afternoon's frolic, called Mary Wade's own Savin Rock Day, was a party at the Home featuring balloons, popcorn, cotton candy, soft drinks, and party hats, all of which recreated the carnival atmosphere which was once found at Savin Rock. An unexpected pleasure was the singing and banjo playing of Charles Salerno, who showed up at the door and volunteered to entertain. "The party had everything that Savin Rock used to have," someone remarked, "except the amusement rides."[124] Between 12:30 and 2:30 P.M. on Saturday the residents were given horse and buggy rides around nearby Chatham Square. Finally, on Sunday afternoon, there was an Open House with an entertainment called Flute Salad and a model train display entitled Valley N' Track.[125]

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro presented a framed copy of her remarks honoring the occasion, which were recorded in the Congressional Record. Claire Hendricks presented a proclamation by Mayor John C. Daniels making November 17, 1991, Mary Wade Day. Alderwoman Robin Kroogman of the 14th (Fair

Haven) Ward presented an official citation to the Home from the New Haven Board of Aldermen. A congratulatory telegram was received by the Home from President George Bush.

The Mary Wade Home had paid jubilant tribute to its past, and now it was ready to begin its next 125 years.

PRESIDENTS

1866–1867	Mrs. Joseph E. Sheffield	1947–1951	Mrs. George E. Hodson
1868–1870	Mrs. Benjamin Roberts	1951–1957	Mrs. Thomas F. Paradise
1871–1878	Mrs. William Hillhouse	1957–1963	Mrs. George R. Willis
1879–1888	Miss E. Davenport	1963–1966	Mrs. Albert G. Kochersperger
1889–1895	Mrs. William Hillhouse	1966–1970	Mrs. Hiram S. Hart
1896–1907	Mrs. Charles Graves	*1970–1974	Mrs. Edith C. Reemsnyder
1908–1912	Mrs. James M. Hoppin	*1974–1978	Mrs. Arthur G. Koch
1913–1920	Mrs. J. M. Greist	1978–1982	Mrs. Herbert A. Steinnecker
1921–1927	Mrs. Rutherford Trowbridge	1982–1986	Mrs. Charles A. Smith
1928–1929	Mrs. James English	1986–1990	Mrs. Quintin Johnstone
1929–1941	Miss Jane C. Bronson	1990–	Mr. Frank C. Hepler
1942–1946	Mrs. Harold S. Burr		

* Honorary Past Presidents

Floyd M. Shumway speaking at the 125th Birthday celebration on November 11, 1991. Seated next to him is staff member Mary Foley, dressed to look like Mary Wade.

You sing of your Kentucky Home,
And the one out on the range,
But, there are others, as you roam
You have missed—which isn't strange.

I have in mind, a special one,
As being the best one made
A home-like structure, nicely run,
And called "The Mary Wade."

The story of its growth entails
Some changes by the score,
As it has weathered storms and gales
For one hundred years—and more.

The doors are always open wide
To friends and passersby,
For those who wish to come inside,
To inspect and certify.

They will be welcomed with a smile,
And helped in every way,
To show them that it is worthwhile
To live here every day.

Surroundings are so homelike,
With a cheerful atmosphere;
A lovely garden, which will strike
You as more beautiful each year.

Each night the lighted windows glow
Into the deepest gloom,
To call attention, and to show
The comfort in each room.

We are watched and guarded from above
By God's tender, loving care,
And have comfort, security and love,
To answer every prayer.

It is a home of priceless worth
And, if you should need aid,
There is no better home on earth
Than the "Good Old Mary Wade."

Bessie Roberts (87)
March 31, 1973

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